

## **FAQ**

### **CAN FOREIGN NATIONAL CADETS AT THE US MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY BE AUTHORIZED BY A VESSEL OWNER/OPERATOR TO ACCESS A VESSEL?**

Yes. A foreign national enrolled at the US Merchant Marine Academy is now eligible for a Merchant Mariner Document (MMD) from the Coast Guard per Public Law 108-293, Section 412, copied below. Vessel Security Plans (VSPs) were mainly approved before the passage of this section. Anyone with a MMD issued by the Coast Guard is able to access a US flag vessel. If a VSP contains the language restricting access to a US citizen, the CSO should consider amending the plan to include anyone who is issued an MMD by the proper authority.

#### **SEC. 412. SERVICE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR MARITIME EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.**

Section 8103(b)(1)(A) of title 46, United State Code, is amended to read as follows:

- “(A) each unlicensed seaman must be--
  - “(i) a citizen of the United States;
  - “(ii) an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; or
  - “(iii) a foreign national who is enrolled in the United States Merchant Marine Academy.”.